

Introduction

Jonah

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Genre

1. Jonah is a _____ which means that the events in the book actually took place regardless of the seemingly implausible accounts which are recorded therein.

a. There are some who claim that this is a good moral story or a parable but those claims seem rather shaky considering that Jesus regarded the most incredulous part of this book as _____. (Matt. 12:40)

- How should we interpret the text of Scripture?

2. The Book of Jonah is part of the Old Testament _____ Prophets section of the Bible, sometimes as “The Book of the Twelve.”

- Why were they called this?
- What does this remind us of?

3. The book of Jonah is unique from the rest of the prophets because of the following:

a. Jonah is the only prophet sent to a _____ nation with a message of repentance.

- What is our mission today?

b. Jonah tried _____ to deliver the message God gave Him.

c. Unlike the rest of the prophets who were unsuccessful in their warning to Israel/Judah, Jonah’s message was _____ to his expectation and horror.

d. The Book of Jonah is the only book that places more emphasis on the _____ than the message.

B. Author

1. Jonah has been traditionally recognized as the author of this book though the author is not _____.

2. A common argument against Jonah as the author is that the book is written in the _____ person, yet this was a common writing style as seen in the book of Daniel.

3. An argument for Jonah as the author concerns the details which were included in the book which would have been only known by _____ and _____ Himself.

C. Context

1. The date in which the events of this book took place was 770-760 B.C. and occurred during the dispensation of _____.

2. At this time Israel and Judah were divided and they were enjoying some relative _____, however Israel's spiritual state was not good.

- What time period is this similar to?

3. To the Northeast of Israel in the land of Northern Iraq, lie a burgeoning empire named _____, which was known for inflicting extremely cruel practices upon captives to cause terror across the land.

- Is this practice still going on today?

D. Message

1. The main message of the book of Jonah is that God shows compassion to _____ people. (Ps 73:38; 86:1; Lam. 3:23; Matt. 9:36; 1 Pet. 3:8; John 3:16; Eph. 2:4; 1 Tim. 2:4)

- Have you noticed God's compassion for you?

2. The key verses are _____ and _____.

3. In this book we also see the _____, _____, _____ and _____ of God.

- Where do we find the character of God?
- Is finding out about who God is important to you?

4. We also see _____ by the prophet and the Ninevites.

- What is repentance and why is it important?